

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1-20 (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~processing-preserving~~ mucosa tissue comprising mixing a quantity of mucosa tissue with a preserving agent of either hydrogen peroxide or phosphoric acid to yield a ~~treated~~the preserved mucosa tissue; and

hydrolyzing the treated mucosa product to form a hydrolyzed mucosa product.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein said preserving agent is phosphoric acid, and said mixing step comprises adjusting the pH of the mucosa tissue with phosphoric acid to about 2-4.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein said preserving agent is hydrogen peroxide, and said mixing step comprises mixing less than about 1% by weight of hydrogen peroxide with said mucosa tissue, said percent by weight hydrogen peroxide being based upon the weight of the mucosa tissue taken as 100% by weight.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein said preserving agent is hydrogen peroxide, and further including the step of heating said mucosa tissue to a temperature of from about 50-105°C prior to said mixing step.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein said preserving agent is hydrogen peroxide, and said preserved mucosa tissue has an ash content of less than about 10% by weight, based upon the total weight of the preserved mucosa tissue as 100% by weight.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said ~~treated-preserved~~ mucosa tissue has a standard plate count of less than about 20,000 cfu/g about seven days after said preserving step.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said ~~treated-preserved~~ mucosa tissue has an *E. Coli* count of less than about 10 cfu/g about seven days after said preserving step.

28-35 (Cancelled)

36. (Previously Presented) A method of treating mucosa tissue, the method comprising combining the mucosa tissue and a peroxide-containing compound to form an intermediate; and hydrolyzing the intermediate to form a hydrolyzed mucosa product.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the peroxide-containing compound is hydrogen peroxide.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the concentration of the peroxide-containing compound in the intermediate is initially less than about 1% by weight, based upon the total weight of the mucosa tissue and the peroxide-containing compound being 100% by weight.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the concentration of the peroxide-containing compound in the intermediate is initially less than about 0.5% by weight, based upon the total weight of the mucosa tissue and the peroxide-containing compound being 100% by weight.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, the method further comprising mixing the peroxide-containing compound and the mucosa tissue to form a mucosa product, the concentration of the peroxide-containing compound remaining in the mucosa product being less than about 0.04% by weight, based upon the total weight of the mucosa product being 100% by weight.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, the method further comprising mixing the peroxide-containing compound and the mucosa tissue to form a mucosa product, the concentration of the peroxide-containing compound remaining in the mucosa product being less than about 0.01% by weight, based upon the total weight of the mucosa product being 100% by weight.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, the method further comprising mixing the peroxide-containing compound and the mucosa tissue to form a mucosa product, the concentration of the peroxide-containing compound remaining in the mucosa product being undetectable when the concentration of the peroxide-containing compound remaining in the mucosa product is determined using KMnO₄ titration.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, the method further comprising:
heating the mucosa tissue to a temperature in the range of about 50-105°C prior to combining the peroxide-containing compound and the mucosa tissue.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, the method further comprising:
heating the mucosa tissue to a temperature in the range of about 65-75°C prior to combining the peroxide-containing compound and the mucosa tissue.

45-46 (Cancelled)

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 wherein the hydrolyzed mucosa product comprises heparin, the method further comprising extracting heparin from the hydrolyzed mucosa product.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, the method further comprising contacting the hydrolyzed mucosa product with a protein-containing material under conditions effective to hydrolyze at least some protein of the protein-containing material and thereby reduce enzymatic activity of the hydrolyzed mucosa product.

49-50 (Cancelled)

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 wherein the intermediate is a treated mucosa product, the treated mucosa product having an ash concentration of less than about 10% by weight, based upon the total weight of the treated mucosa product being 100% by weight.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the treated mucosa product has an ash content of less than about 7% by weight, based upon the total weight of the treated mucosa product being 100% by weight.

53. (Currently Amended) A method of treating mucosa tissue, the method comprising adding

phosphoric acid to the mucosa tissue to form an intermediate and hydrolyzing the intermediate.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 53 wherein the intermediate initially has a pH in the range of about 2-4 after the phosphoric acid is added to the mucosa tissue.

55. (New) The Method of claim 53 and further comprising contacting the hydrolyzed mucosa product with a protein-containing material under conditions effective to hydrolyze at least some protein of the protein-containing material and thereby reduce enzymatic activity of the hydrolyzed mucosa product